approximately 17 sq. kms. were identified in Jharia coalfied of Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. Twenty two fire projects to deal with these fires at an estimated cost of Rs. 114.57 crores are under various stages of implementation. As a result of these efforts, nine fires have been completely extinguished and liquidated till date and the remaining fires are, by and large, under control.

With the objective of finding a long-term solution to the problem of Jharia coalfied fires, a diagnostic study under the Jharia Mine Fire Control Technical Assistance Project, assisted by World Bank, has been completed in June, 1996. Action on preparation of final report has been initiated by the consultant engaged for the purpose.

Central Scheme for Girl's/Boy's Hostels for SC/ST Students in the Country

3441. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether adequate assistance is being provided by the Central Government to State Governments under the scheme of girl's/boy's hostels for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes students in the country;

(b) if so, the allocation of funds for the purpose during last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that the funds allocated for the construction of hostels for SCs/STs students under the scheme have not fully been utilised in the different parts of the country;

(d) if so, the specific reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken by Government to utilise entire funds for the purpose in the country?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) State-wise details of Central assistance under Girls Hostels scheme for SCs during the last three years are at statement-I and State-wise details of Central assistance under Boys Hostels Scheme for SCs during the last three years are at Statement-II, (*See* below). Details of Central assistance, State-wise, under the scheme of Girls Hostels for STs during the last three years are at Statement-III and State-wise details of Central assistance under the scheme of Boys Hostels for STs during the last three years are at Statement-IV. (*See* below).

(c) and (d) Generally complete funds allocated for construction of hostels are not utilised in the year in which these are given because of the fact that the construction work of a hostel takes two-three years. If the funds are, for certain reasons, not made available to the agency/organisation charged with the responsibility of construction in the same year, revalidation for utilisation of funds in the following year is required.

(e) Utilisation of funds and progress report on construction of hostels with the funds released previously are the pre-requisites for consideration of further release of funds under the schemes.

Statement-I

Details of Central Assistance Released during last three years under Girls Hostels Scheme for SCs

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	State/UT	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
1.	Andhra Pradesh	310.31	489.68	200.85
2.	Assam	—	9.00	9.00
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—

Sl. No.	State/UT	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
4.	Bihar	40.44	—	—
5.	Gujarat	15.06	—	14.13
6.	Haryana	—	—	—
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	2.10	—
8.	Karnataka	3.09	64.39	37.50
9.	Kerala	25.03	—	23.51
10.	Maharashtra	56.43	—	—
11.	Madhya Pradesh	0.54	—	—
12.	Manipur	2.32	6.54	—
13.	Orissa	38.76	41.40	49.59
14.	Punjab	1.00	3.30	3.00
15.	Rajasthan	5.05	—	12.78
16.	Sikkim	—	—	—
17.	Tamil Nadu	50.55	—	100.00
18.	Tripura	1.68	3.59	24.00
19.	Uttar Pradesh	15.77	—	31.82
20.	West Bengal	33.87	—	58.70
21.	Pondicherry	—	—	—
	Total	600.00	620.00	564.88

Statement-II

Details of Central Assistance Released during last three years under Boys Hostels Scheme for SCs

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	State/UT	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
1.	Andhra Pradesh	181.98	—	198.90
2.	Assam	—	—	9.00
3.	Bihar	70.77	—	—
4.	Gujarat	39.50	—	65.16
5.	Haryana	—	—	1.82
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.145	—	3.15
7.	Karnataka	108.68	174.25	324.45
8.	Kerala	6.95	—	—
9.	Maharashtra	68.24	—	93.83
10.	Madhya Pradesh	—	—	216.30

Sl. No.	State/UT	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
11.	Manipur	2.04	—	—
12.	Orissa	34.00	35.60	25.29
13.	Punjab	2.50	2.70	2.00
14.	Rajasthan	2.52	—	220.01
15.	Sikkim	—	—	—
16.	Tamil Nadu	43.63	17.03	100.00
17.	Tripura	5.00	0.47	6.00
18.	Uttar Pradesh	60.66	—	66.93
19.	West Bengal	23.37	—	134.01
20.	Pondicherry	—	—	—
21.	Chandigarh	—	—	15.00
	Total	650.00	230.05	1482.85

Statement-III

Details of State-wise Release of funds during the last three years under Scheme of Girls Hostels for STs

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S. No.	State	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
1.	Andhra Pradesh	53.11	50.00	91.00
2.	Assam	—	—	3.03
3.	Gujarat	19.51	4.73	—
4.	Himachal Pradesh	—	—	6.50
5.	Daman & Diu	—	3.00	20.00
6.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—	37.00	40.00
7.	Kerala	20.00	20.00	—
8.	Madhya Pradesh	27.03	115.83	—
9.	Manipur	10.11	—	—
10.	Meghalaya	9.80	11.00	13.75
11.	Orissa	77.24	44.00	65.93
12.	Rajasthan	12.25	—	66.74
13.	Tamil Nadu	—	—	—
14.	Tripura	7.31	19.44	19.44
15.	Uttar Pradesh	3.65	—	—
16.	West Bengal	23.74	—	19.57
17.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	24.05
	Total	263.76	305.00	370.00

Statement-IV

Details of State-wise Release of funds during the last three years under Scheme of Boys Hostels for STs

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S. No.	State	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
1.	Andhra Pradesh	30.75	58.47	92.63
2.	Assam	—	16.00	—
3.	Gujarat	39.23	16.44	—
4.	Kerala	20.00	20.00	—
5.	Daman & Diu	—	26.82	—
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	5.97	86.02	12.70
7.	Madhya Pradesh	39.28	16.90	—
8.	Manipur	10.11	—	—
9.	Meghalaya	9.80	11.00	13.75
10.	Orissa	29.40	36.00	46.62
11.	Rajasthan	36.75	—	—
12.	Tamil Nadu	—	—	—
13.	Tripura	18.38	29.17	38.38
14.	Uttar Pradesh	3.65	—	—
15.	West Bengal	26.41	—	115.92
16.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—	—	45.00
	Total	269.72	306.82	365.00

Old age and Widow Pension Scheme in Assam

3442. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scheme of old age and widow pension is continuing in Assam;

(b) if not, the reasons thereof; and

(c) whether Government plan to reintroduce it?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Steps taken to open the closed mines in Bihar

3443. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether 72 coalmines are lying closed in Bihar after the nationalisation of coal mines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Central Government have received any proposal from the Government of Bihar for reopening of the closed mines in Bihar; and

(d) if so, the decision taken by the Central Government in this regard and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) to (d) In 1992, a Joint Inspection Team (JIT) was set up with the representatives of Government of Bihar and Coal India Limited to identify the closed mines in Bihar. The JIT identified 10 closed coal mines of Central Coalfields Limited and 5 closed coalmines of Eastern Coalfields Limited, which are not covered by either ongoing or future projects of CIL. The Government of Bihar had made a proposal that the